

## 348 The United States Naval Academy

The one living survivor of the old Naval School who still remains at his ancient post is John Jarvis, drummer and mail-carrier. Far back in the "forties," he was in the Marine Band at Washington; and then he went slaver-catching on the African coast in the *Marion*; and just about fifty years ago, when the white-haired old admirals on the retired list were rollicking reefers fretting under Lockwood's drill, Jarvis began to beat the drum to keep their marching footsteps in time. He kept on beating it for drills and dinners and reveillé and tattoo and quarters year in and year out, until the Academy migrated to Newport, and then he became the mail-carrier, and the youngsters always joyfully welcomed him as the bearer of news from home. That office was so congenial to him that about a generation ago he hung up his drum forever, and yielded his place to the bugler. He kept on getting the letters, and he is at it yet. Some of these days when he gets old—which is still, of course, a long time distant—perhaps the powers that be will make proper provision for his pleasant and honorable retirement, with the substantial reward which he has so well earned.

The Naval Academy has granted diplomas of three different designs. The first, which was originally given at the end of the four-years course, was devised by the Professor of Drawing, Mr. Edward Seager, and bears the representation of the old sloop-of-war *Preble*, Stribling Row, and the recitation building. This was signed originally by the entire Academic Board. In Admiral Porter's time, this design was abandoned, and another substituted showing simply a steam frigate of the type then in vogue, and the document was signed solely by



the Superintendent. Still later, this was abolished in favor of a somewhat complicated testimonial, whereon were represented various mythological deities and animals. At the present time, diploma No. 3, with wording suitably changed, is given to the cadet as a certificate of proficiency when he completes the four-year course. Diploma No. 2 is not used. Diploma No. 1 is now the diploma proper, and is bestowed upon the graduates after they have finished their two years' sea service.

The seal or coat-of-arms of the Naval Academy has for its crest a hand grasping a trident, below which is a shield bearing an ancient galley coming into action, bows on, and below that an open book, indicative of education, and finally bears the motto, "*Ex Scientia Tridens*" (From knowledge, the sea power). The whole is the design of the author, and was adopted by the Navy Department in 1898. Up to that year, the Naval Academy had possessed no authorized device, although it had printed on its Registers an arbitrary symbol. The occasion which led to the adoption of the present design was the building of a new club-house by the University Club of New York, on the exterior of which the coats-of-arms of the several colleges were placed as an embellishment, and this brought the fact to general notice that the Naval Academy had no badge of the kind. The matter was at once taken up by Mr. Jacob W. Miller, of the class of 1867, and mainly through his endeavors the desired approval of the Navy Department was secured.